

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering the application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-20, 22, 23, and 27-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 12, 29, and 33 are independent. Claims 4-7, 9, 10, 16, 20, and 27-36 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 8, and 12.

Claim Amendments

Claim 17 is amended to correct a typographical error.

Drawings

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate in the next action whether the drawings filed on July 25, 2003 as amended in the Response to Office Action filed on March 12, 2007 are accepted.

Election of Species Requirement

Applicants are required to elect one of the following patentably distinct species:

- Species 1: Page 10, line 14 through page 11, line 5 of the specification
- Species 2: Page 11, line 9-16 of the specification
- Species 3: Page 12, lines 1-6 of the specification

See Office Action dated July 6, 2007 at page 2. Applicants hereby provisionally elect Species 1 without traverse, on which claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 12-15, 17-19, 22, and 23 read. Claims 4-7, 9, 10, 16, 20, and 27-36 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Examiner indicates that claims 12-14, 17, 18, 22, 23, and 27 are generic. See Office Action dated July 6, 2007 at page 2.

Conclusion

Applicants believe this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/503001)

Dated: August 6, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By Robert P. Lord
Robert P. Lord
Registration No.: 46,479
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicants